

REMARKS

Entry of the present amendment and reconsideration of the Office Action of March 29, 2005 is respectfully requested by Applicants. The amendments and remarks are thought to place the application in condition for allowance.

Claim 8 has been amended to recite the limitations of claim 9, which has previously been allowed. Claim 10, which has also been allowed, has been amended to depend from claim 8. Claim 9 has been cancelled. No new matter has been added.

Claims 8, 10, and 43 remain pending for examination.

Allowance of claims

The examiner's allowance of claims 9 and 10 prior to the present amendment has been noted by Applicants with appreciation.

Following entry of the present amendment, the limitations of claim 9, which depended from claim 8, are now recited by claim 8, which should now be allowable.

Claim 10, which was previously held allowable, now depends from claim 8 and should remain allowable.

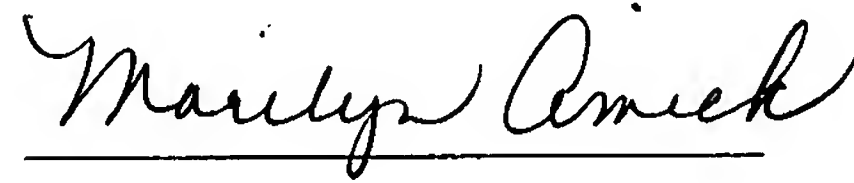
Claim 43, previously rejected, depends from claim 8 and should now be allowable following entry of the present amendment.

Applicants submit that their application is now in condition for allowance, and favorable reconsideration of their application in light of the above amendments and remarks is respectfully requested. Allowance of claims 8, 10 and 43 is earnestly solicited.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 02-2958. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Marilyn L. Amick", written in dark ink. The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first name "Marilyn" and last name "Amick" clearly distinguishable. It is positioned above a horizontal line.

Marilyn L. Amick  
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The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this  
Amendment to Deposit Account No. 02-2958. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Amick

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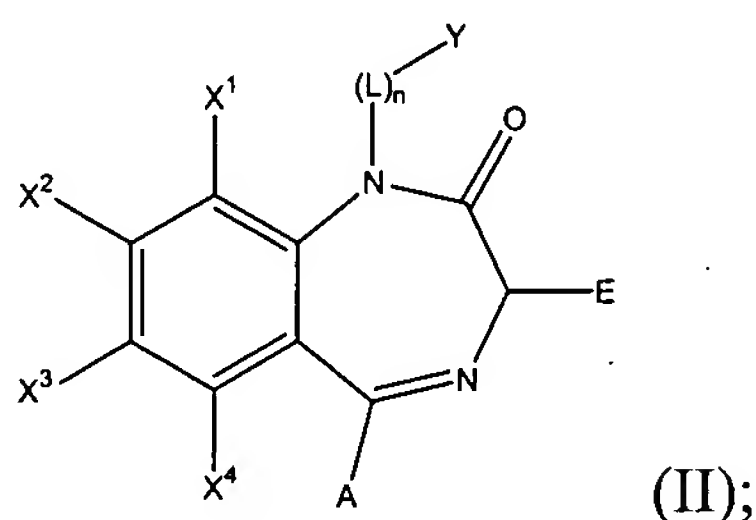


CLAIMS LISTING 5/25/2005

What is claimed is:

1-7 (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) A water-soluble reference standard of formula (II)



wherein  $X^1$ ,  $X^2$ ,  $X^3$  and  $X^4$  are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, F, Cl, Br, nitro, amino, and alkylamido;

~~-L- is an alkyl group containing from 1-20 carbon atoms  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$ ;~~

-E is -H, alkyl, -OH, -COOH, or  $-\text{COOR}'$ , where  $\text{R}'$  is an alkyl group containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms;

A is an aryl group; n is 0 or 1; and Y is  ~~$-\text{SO}_3$ ,  $\text{NRSO}_3$ ,  $\text{PO}_3\text{H}$ , or  $\text{OPO}_3\text{H}$ , where R is selected from the group consisting of H and an alkyl group comprising 1 to 10 carbon atoms  $-\text{NHSO}_3^-$ .~~

9. (cancelled)

10. (currently amended) The water-soluble reference standard of ~~claim 9~~ claim 8, wherein

$X^1$ ,  $X^2$ , and  $X^4$  are hydrogen;

$X^3$  is Cl; and

A is 2-fluorophenyl.

11-42 (cancelled)

CLAIMS LISTING 5/25/2005

43. (previously presented) A reference standard kit, comprising the reference standard of claim 8.
44. (cancelled)